

INFORMAL REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina

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1. The Argentine army is solidly behind Minister of War, General Humberto Cosa Molina, who also has the support of General Velazco.
2. When President Peron requested Cosa Molina's resignation, the latter stated that that was a matter to be decided in Campo de Mayo. He received the backing of all military officers and of Velazco, who countermanded with the request that Cosa Molina be placed in charge of the Argentine Air Force.
3. Velazco has no sympathy for President and Mrs. Peron, and even less for Colonel Domingo A. Mercante, Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, who allegedly has presidential aspirations and is working toward that goal. At a recent reunion in Campo de Mayo Peron was specifically advised that Mercante would not be acceptable as his replacement. If any such attempt was made, there would be a military uprising headed by Velazco.
4. Peron was also informed that military leaders would not permit the new economic policies of Argentina to be dictated by the United States, that economic reforms would have to be accomplished inside the country without foreign entanglements, that Velazco remains adamant in this respect, and is disposed to take whatever measures are necessary to achieve this aim since he can count on the support of the army.
5. Many military leaders are ill-disposed toward the constitutional reform, and are especially displeased by the reelection of the president.

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